

John Venour Gane

John Gane was born in Bridlington, Yorkshire on 19th July 1907, and died on 27th January 1981. His parents had a boys' preparatory school at Marton Hall, near Bridlington, and it was from them that he drew his broad interest in Natural History as part of his daily instruction, and in 1937 succeeded his father there as headmaster.

His main interest was in the macrolepidoptera of Norfolk, and in particular those of the Broads. He was also the younger brother of C. W. G. Gane who had a locality in Norfolk for *Catocala fraxini* L., where it appears to have been resident and was taken in numbers in 1933 and 1934.

John was very meticulous in his recording, writing up full lists of species and numbers on every occasion. He corresponded with and met many of the Norfolk people, and it was with their help that between 1970 and 1980 he compiled a list of the lepidoptera of Norfolk. This list, which was almost completed at the time of his death, was never published and is at present in the hands of the writer as are his Notebooks, Card Index and Collection.

Much of his collecting was done with light, but unenamoured with the design of the Robinson Trap, he produced a light trap to his own specification by commissioning a joiner to build a double-walled folding wooden carcass, canvas-lined to give the moths purchase. He redesigned the collar out of solid perspex, lengthened the funnel to eighteen inches, and enclosed the bulb inside a perspex cover. This ambitious construction was situated on the roof of his garage within a stone's throw of Barton Broad, where among many interesting species he took *Orgyia recens* Hbn. (bred 25.5.1973 from larvae found on meadowspeet) and *Eilema pygmaeola pygmaeola* Dbldy.

John was a quiet and thorough collector always willing to share his extensive knowledge, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. — MARK HADLEY.

Notes and Observations

A VERY FINE EXHIBITION. — I am getting old and can no longer chase *Colias croceus* in August over clover fields. But in October 1981, I was pursuing certain ecclesiastical quarries, and my wife and I spent ten days in Verona in Northern Italy. What a lucky choice it was, for there in the heart of the City in the Palazzo Gran Guardia was this exhibition of farfalle (butterflies) of the world.

The Catalogue is obtainable from the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale at Verona, and contains some 70 pages with colour pictures and diagrams. We are told on p. 69 that the collection of butterflies together with that of Coleoptera and Hemiptera comprises the most important collection in the Verona Museum. There are over one million in number with some 50000 butterflies. This they say is one of the most important collections in Italy, most of the insects coming from Piemonte and Veneto with some from Kenya and Brazil.